proceeds serially with respect to at least some of the plurality of members in order to satisfy the conflict.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the satisfying comprises at least one of the at least some of the plurality of members withholding information in order for the second phase to proceed serially.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the information comprises an acknowledgement.

10. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a processing group with a plurality of members, and wherein the detecting comprising comparing requests for the resource from at least some of the plurality of members.

11. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the modification operation comprises a plurality of phases, and wherein the means for detecting comprises means for detecting whether a conflict for the resource exists during a first phase of the modification operation.

12. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a processing group with a plurality of members, and wherein the first phase proceeds in parallel with respect to the plurality of members.

13. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the means for satisfying comprises means for satisfying the conflict during a second phase of the modification operation.

14. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a processing group with a plurality of members, and wherein the second phase proceeds serially with respect to at least some of the plurality of members in order to satisfy the conflict.

15. (New) The system of claim 14, wherein the means for satisfying comprises means for at least one of the at least some of the plurality of members withholding information in order for the second phase to proceed serially.

16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the information comprises an acknowledgement.

17. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a processing group with a plurality of members, and wherein the means for detecting comprising means for comparing requests for the resource from at least some of the plurality of members.

18. (New) The at least one program storage device of claim 3, wherein the modification operation comprises a plurality of phases, and wherein the detecting comprises detecting whether a conflict for the resource exists during a first phase of the modification operation.

19. (New) The at least one program storage device of claim 18, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a processing group with a plurality of members, and wherein the first phase proceeds in parallel with respect to the plurality of members.

20. (New) The at least one program storage device of claim 18, wherein the satisfying comprises satisfying the conflict during a second phase of the modification operation.

21. (New) The at least one program storage device of claim 20, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a processing group with a plurality of members, and wherein the second phase proceeds serially with respect to at least some of the plurality of members in order to satisfy the conflict.